

# *Homegoing Celebration*

*Missionary Queen Esther Watson*

*May 31, 1932—February 19, 2012*



Friday, March 2, 2012—11:00am

Perry Temple Church of God in Christ  
3443 Market Street ♦ Oakland, CA  
Pastor Leonard Jackson, Officiating



## *From Labor to Reward*

**Q**ueen Esther Watson was born on May 31, 1932 in Camden, Arkansas to Bolden and Mary Geeter. In 1946, her parents moved their family of nine children, 5 girls and 4 boys, to San Francisco, California. Soon after, the entire family joined Bethel AME Church. But in 1948, by God's divine plan, she became a very special part of the Cotton family. As time passed, God blessed her with three children: Rosalie, Mary and Larry Cotton. At this point in her life, she would come to know the "saving power" of a life-changing God through the man who would later, become her Father in the Gospel—Elder F. W. Cotton, founder of The Faith Temple Church of God in Christ.

As this ministry began in 1956, Sister Queen was at the forefront of every effort, working tirelessly in the work of the Lord. On May 6, 1961, the little congregation would march into their new sanctuary with Sister Queen holding the hands of Pastor and Mother Cotton, singing "We've come this far by faith". She was about to enter a new era of ministry that would make her a leader among women and an example of true holiness.

Little did she know that God was going to bless her in ways she could never "ask or think". Deacon Mack Watson was coming on the scene and her life was about to change. On October 23, 1976, Supt. F. W. Cotton joined the two in marriage. What a joyous day it was! When Dad Cotton announced that "a wife should follow her husband", Deacon Watson smiled proudly as he prepared to take our precious jewel off to Perry Temple Church of God in Christ. Pastor Philip Carter and the Perry Temple family would welcome and love her and she would in return love them dearly. When Pastor Carter went home to be with the Lord, Pastor Leonard Jackson would

"Shepherd" this faithful servant of God until the Lord called her home.

She worked diligently in her local church as President of the Women's Department. Oh, how she loved God's Word and delighted in teaching Sunday School and sharing her profound knowledge of the scriptures. She enjoyed overseeing the "Beautification projects" that helped enhance and improve her church. Missionary Watson also served as District Missionary for the Central District and was the Oakland Area Leader, giving many years of caring, faithful service.



She never had idle hands. If there was a need, she would fill it. If someone needed food...she would buy it, cook it, and serve it! She thankfully gave herself to the work of the Lord and served His people with a glad heart. And so...on Sunday morning, February 19, 2012 at 2:00 a.m., God walked through the halls of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital...having decided that "THE QUEEN" should labor-no-more. Then God, Himself said "It is finished, my child...come home".

Missionary Watson will be cherished and remembered by her loving husband, Deacon Mack Watson; two daughters, Rosalie "Sue" Lawrence and Mary Cotton Porter (who preceded her in death); her son, Pastor Larry David Cotton; her daughter-in-law, Cathy Ann Cotton; two godsons, Pastor Harvey Drake and Geary Bledsoe, Jr.; three Sisters, Lucinda Coleman, Exie McFarland, and Mother Lena Willis; two Brothers, Abdul Sultan and Edward Geeter; four Sisters-in-law, Dora Watson, Gladys Lewis, Cecilia Geeter and Gloria Geeter; two Brothers-in-law, John H. Watson and Ivory L. Lewis; 10 Grandchildren; 12 Great-grandchildren; a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and the loving Church Families of Perry Temple and Faith Temple.



# Homegoing Service

Elder Charles Bryant, Master of Ceremony

Processional	-----	Clergy and Family
Prayer of Comfort	-----	Elder Rodney Rushing
Scripture Reading	Old Testament: Psalms 34:17-19	Elder T. Flournoy
	New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52	Pastor Daniel Newman
Congregational Songs	-----	Missionary Jody Jackson

## Expressions (2 minutes)

Bro. Geary Bledsoe, Jr.—Godson  
Bro. Robert Lofton

Reflections ----- Women's Department (2 minutes please)

First Lady Catherine Jackson  
Perry Temple Church of God in Christ  
Missionary Lavada Guterrez  
Missionary Sarah McLeod  
Mother Mary Lee Hines

## Expressions of Love

Mother Lena Willis	-----	Best Friend & Sister
Mother Mary M. Welch	-----	State Supervisor
		California Northwest Jurisdiction

Musical Selection ----- Family Request

Sister Maryanne Peace

Acknowledgments of Cards and Condolences ----- Mother Irma Helton

Resolutions ----- Mother Bobbie Miller

Special Remarks ----- Supt. Samuel Bobo, Presiding

Senior Administrative Assistant—California Northwest Jurisdiction

Pastor Don Britton

Pastor Harvey Drake (a son)

Supt. Robert Smith

District Superintendent—Central District

Pastor Gerald Harris

Senior Administrative Assistant—California Northwest Jurisdiction

Bishop Joe L. Ealy

Jurisdictional Prelate—Southern California First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Obituary Reading ----- Sister Celeste Bosley

Sermonic Solo ----- Sister Kesha Ealy

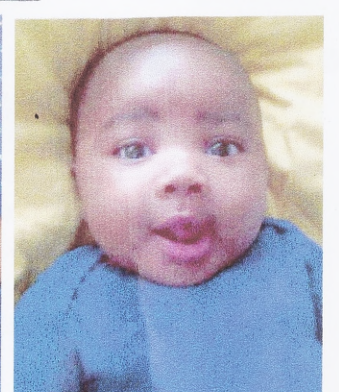
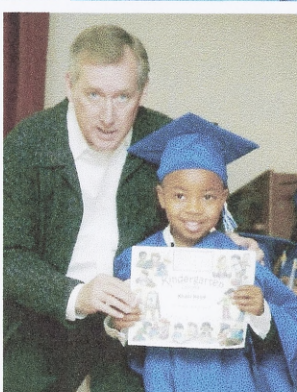
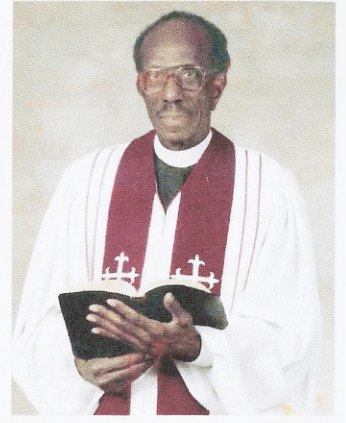
Eulogy ----- Pastor Leonard Jackson

Perry Temple Church of God in Christ

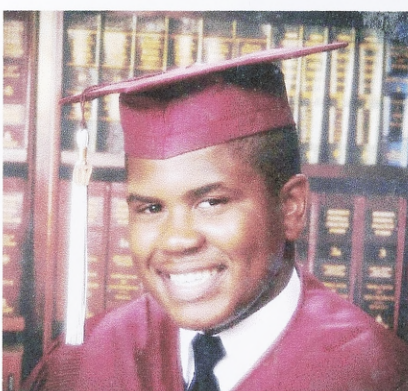
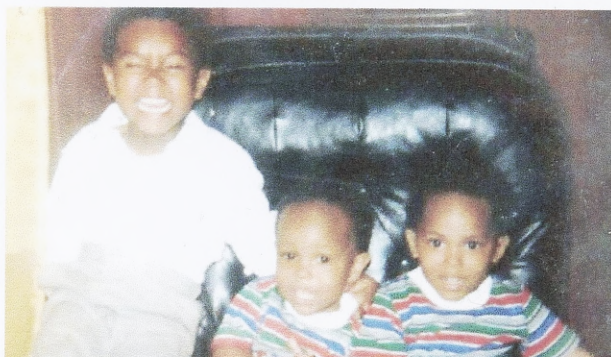
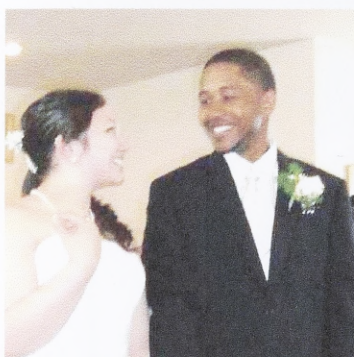
Parting View ----- Mortuary Staff

Musical Interlude and Recessional











## *Tribute*



*Rosalie*



*Larry*



*Mary*

*Mom, you are my hero and God has made you strong...  
You are a solid rock to me, and everlasting arm.  
You are my book of wisdom, the fountain that overflows,  
Your knowledge and wisdom are priceless, your love just helps me grow.  
I love you with all my heart and soul, I do want you to know,  
And I'm proud to tell the whole world...  
My mom is my hero!*



## *Tribute*

*"Holy women working together in the beauty of holiness"*



*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

*— 2 Corinthians 5:1 —*

*Missionary Queen's Favorite Scripture*





### ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Louis Reed  
Larry Mobley  
Carlos Sanders

Ricky Bias  
Derrick Washington  
Larry Cotton, Jr.



### HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Bro. Billie Kretschmer  
Deacon Jessie Parmer  
Elder Huey Benson

Deacon Rufus Guiterrez  
Deacon Henry Sanders  
Bro. Dante Cotton

### REPAST

Following the services, the family would like you to fellowship with them in the Dining Hall at Perry Temple Church of God in Christ at 3443 Market Street in Oakland.

INTERMENT  
OAKMONT MEMORIAL PARK  
Lafayette, CA



### Special Thanks

Thank you Traci for being at your Aunt Queen's bedside everyday she spent in the hospital. You made her last days sweeter. We love you..

*Uncle Mack, Cousin Rosalie, Cousin Larry*

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of Mother Queen Esther Watson would like to thank each and everyone of you who has shown love through phone calls, prayers, letters, cards, and more during this difficult time in our lives. We greatly appreciate you.

*The family*

Final Arrangements Entrusted to:  
**DUGGANS FUNERAL SERVICE**  
3434—17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 431-4900

Program by:  
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